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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/045,541	10/26/2001	Gerald N. King	0267-001-1436CON	3566

7590 10/23/2002  
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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, SON V

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED: 10/23/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. <b>10/045,541</b>	Applicant(s) <b>King</b>	
	Examiner <b>Son Nguyen</b>	Art Unit <b>2839</b>	

**– The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address –**

**Period for Reply**  
 A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.  
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.  
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.  
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).  
 - Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

4) ☒ Claim(s) 36-55 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) 36-55 is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirements.

**Application Papers**

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
       Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
       If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
       a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None of:  
           1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
           2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_  
           3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
       \*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).  
       a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

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## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Objections*

1. Claims 36-42 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 36, lines 6 and 7, there is no antecedent basis for "said base."

In claim 37, line 5, it is unclear that whether applicant intended "rear cover" to be the same as "rear cover" of a mounting trap or a base unit recited in claim 36. Appropriate correction is required.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 36, 38-39, 41, 43, 45-46, 48-49, 51-52 and 55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Castellano (US 3,609,647).

Castellano discloses a modular electrical component [figure 1] comprising:

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- a base unit [30] having a plurality prongs comprise of first terminal members [80, figure 30] and a plurality of second terminal members [figure 5] with screws [76] connectable to conductors [22] in an electrical wiring system through duct [24];
- a mounting strap [33] secured a rear cover of the base [figure 4] to a junction box [10];
- and
- a removable electrical device is in form of a receptacle [36, figure 1] or a switch [38, figure 1] having a plurality of power contacts [36a or 38a] and a ground contact [38b] extending through a rear cover of the switch [figures 1 and 5], wherein the power contacts releasably connected to the first terminal members.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 37, 44 and 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Castellano and Osterbrock et al. (US 5,637,000).

Castellano discloses the instant claimed invention except for the mounting strap has at least one ground terminal connection extends into the base unit for connecting with the ground contact of the switch.

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Osterbrock et al. discloses an electrical wiring device with ground~~trap~~ shorting protection [figure 1] comprising a mounting trap [30] having a ground terminal connection [34] extending through a hole formed in a rear wall of a base unit [10] for connecting with a mating ground contact.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify the mounting trap of Castellano to provide the ground~~trap~~ shorting protection as taught by Osterbrock et al. for the purpose of preventing the possibility of an electrical shorting [column 1, lines 23-38].

6. Claims 40, 47 and 53-54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Castellano and Marcou et al. (US 5,594,398).

Castellano discloses the instant claimed invention except for the removable electrical device is a circuit interruption device.

Marcou et al. clearly shows all limitations applicant claimed for a GFCI device including a reset means [10, figures 1 and 11].

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify the switch of Castellano to provide the GFCI device as taught by Marcou et al. for the purpose of facilitating resetting the electrical connection between input and output conductive paths, as is well known in the art of the electrical connectors and switches.

7. Claim 42 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Castellano and Heimann (US 4,842,551).

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Castellano discloses the instant claimed invention except for the base unit is configured to fit within a multiple gang junction box in the electrical wiring system.

The use of a multiple gang junction box used in the electrical wiring system is well known in the art of electrical connectors.

Heimann discloses a base unit is configured to fit within a multiple gang junction box in the electrical wiring system [figure 1].


It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify the base of Castellano to provide the multiple gang junction box as taught by Heimann for the purpose of receiving multiple modular electrical components.

### *Conclusion*

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Son Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 308-8745.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild, can be reach on (703) 308-2710. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-7722.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.

Son Nguyen 

October 18, 2002

  
**LYNN FIELD**  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800